

REMARKS

New Claims 37 to 54 are pending in the application, of which Claims 37, 43 and 49 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The title was objected to as not being descriptive. A new title is submitted herein, the approval of which is hereby courteously solicited.

Claims 19 to 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16, 19, 20, 23, 25, 28, 29, 32 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0143924 (Iga). Claims 8, 9, 17, 18, 26, 27, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,295,423 (Haines). Claims 4, 13, 22 and 31 were under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Iga in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,590,675 (Tomiyasu). Claims 3, 6, 12, 15, 21, 24, 30 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Iga in view of well know prior art. Claims 1 to 36 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits this rejection is now moot.

Turning to specific claim language, new independent Claim 37 is directed to a printer which includes: a receiving unit for receiving an electronic mail including a setting file for setting a format and a print file, wherein the setting file includes information to designate the print file; and a printing unit for printing the print file, designated by the setting file, in the format set by the setting file.

Iga discloses a printer connected to a network, a mail server, having an address inherent in the printer, for transmitting/receiving an electronic mail is arranged. The electronic mail received by the mail server is decoded by a mail process unit. When an electronic mail sentence includes a control instruction of power supply control related to the printer, a request for

a report of printer supplies management information, a request for a report of an operation state check, updating of a firmware, maintenance, printing of an attached file, or the like, a process depending on the control instruction is executed. (See Iga, Abstract). Furthermore, Iga is primarily concerned with power management issues and only mentions various types of emulators for printing various types of documents. (See Iga, items 62-1 to 62-n of Fig. 1c of).

Haines discloses generating notifications associated with the lifetime of peripheral unit consumables. Users or clients are able to define and adjust their own threshold values that are associated with a consumable's lifetime. A lifetime monitoring mechanism may be configured with a user-manipulable, threshold-defining mechanism that is configured to receive user input and, responsive to the user input, define a threshold value for the lifetime monitoring mechanism. A determination is made when the peripheral unit's use of the consumable reaches the threshold value and, responsive thereto, a notification is generated. (See Haines, Abstract).

However, neither Iga nor Haines, neither alone nor in combination, disclose nor suggest at least the features of receiving an electronic mail including a setting file for setting a format and a print file, wherein the setting file includes information to designate the print file; and printing unit for printing the designated print file in the format set by the setting file.

In light of the deficiencies of Iga and Haines as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 37 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

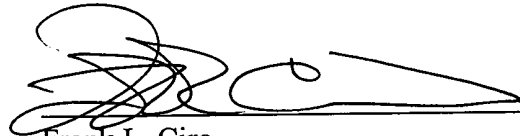
Amended independent Claims 43 and 49 are directed to a method and computer program stored on a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 37. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 43 and 49 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', written over a horizontal line.

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